





We present this morning an Address read before the recent Agricultural Convention held in this city, upon the Improvement of our System of Agriculture and Reformation in our present System of Education. We commend it to the attention of our readers as containing advice of practical value. The subjects discussed are of vital importance, and the very little interest manifested in them renders their frequent and able discussion more important. We wish our noble farmers God speed in their work. While they may have the sympathies, they receive but little aid from the citizens generally. The herculean task before them renders their efforts more difficult, but their accomplishment only can restore prosperity to our section.

## Consolidation.

We have been among the most strenuous opposers of the consolidation of the North Carolina Railroad with the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. We did so because we did not believe as those corporations were then managed that any benefit could be derived either to the individual stockholders or the State, or the travelers or shippers, while manifest and gross injustice would be done to our particular section. At that time freight could not be carried over the North Carolina Railroad without passing over the North Carolina Railroad without breaking bulk. All these lines were managed with an intelligence and liberality which obviated the necessity of a consolidation, and each Company received its due proportion of the travel and freight, neither having the advantage of the other by special tariffs in their favor.

While these things were thus managed we believed it wrong that the North Carolina Railroad, which owed its charter to the influence and labors of the Hon. Wm. S. Ashe, at the time a member of the Legislature from New Hanover, and for its completion the citizens of Wilmington subscribed one-tenth of the entire individual subscription, should be consolidated against the interest of these stockholders and of this county and city, while there was really no benefit to be derived to any other stockholders or to the State, but to a section only which had contributed nothing to its completion.

Our views have, however, been modified in this respect. While still doubting its legality, without the consent of every stockholder in the two corporations, as the road is now operated by political mountebanks for the benefit of certain individuals, and entirely in the interests of railroads and cities outside of the State, we do not know but that the consolidation of the two roads would be advantageous to the State and its citizens. A large proportion of the assets of the State is in the stock of these two roads. Any legislation which will increase the value of the investment will benefit the tax-payers of the State, and falling in it, it will be better to improve a North Carolina port than one in Virginia. If our railroads are to be run as political machines, and placed in the hands of incompetent men, the fewer administrations there are the better it will be for the State.

It strikes us as a little singular, however, while there is an increasing disposition in the State and the whole country to consolidate railroads, that the Legislature should seriously entertain a proposition to divide the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad. A bill is now pending, drawn by "Judge" Logan, and pressed by his friends, to divide the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad at Charlotte. We suppose that the redoubtable General and Judge having failed both as a soldier and jurist, and supposing, like the negro's dog, that he must be "good for something," desires to try his hand at managing a railroad, and he wants to have one "lopped off" for his special benefit.

Of course such a division, even were the stockholders willing to consent to such an amendment of the charter, or the mortgagees silly enough to release a portion of their security, would utterly destroy the value of the property. We suppose this ridiculous attempt is the empty echo of the grievous disappointment of certain radicals to secure the administration of the road. We take it for granted, even if the bill be passed, it will amount to nothing, as it would not be accepted either by the stockholders or bondholders.

## The Public Debt.

We fear that there is something more than a joke in the pithy remarks of the New York Express in commenting upon the financial exhibit of Governor Holden's Message: "We do not know which needs paying for most, the State or its creditors"—for we are certain from the figures presented by the Governor, which are most favorable to the State, the amount necessary to meet the current expenses of the Government and to pay the accruing interest upon the bonded debt, cannot be collected by taxes from the people without wholesale ruin. We make the prediction that the sum to be provided for to meet the ordinary and extraordinary expenses of the State government during the present fiscal year will be greater than the amount realized by the capital and labor of the State after deducting the necessary expenses of living.

More than three hundred thousand dollars of interest falls due on the first day of January next, and equal sums upon the first of April and July following, and yet there is only one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in the State Treasury, while one hundred thousand dollars of that must be used to pay a special loan borrowed to liquidate the per diem and mileage of the members of the Legislature. And yet the Governor gives the most confident assurances to our creditors that the January interest will be paid promptly. Of course the amount must be borrowed, or the State's interest in some of her Railroads sold. This, we suppose, is following out

the sage advice that we should labor and live economically within our income, even if we have to borrow money to do so.

But seriously, we agree with the Governor in believing that the people of the State will cheerfully pay whatever amount may be necessary to meet the interest on the debt. But we do not think they will or should pay the interest on that portion of it which has been illegally contracted by the Legislature at its recent session, or that which will be illegally added during the present session. It is said, and generally believed, that any bill appropriating money can be passed by paying a commission to certain parties in and out of the Legislature, forming a "Ring" for the control of that body. We know that in addition to the four millions and a half dollars appropriated in August, that there are bills already introduced and others maturing which will increase the debt of the State more than ten millions of dollars. It seems to be a strife between individuals and sections as to who will get the lion's share in the division of spoils. Railroad schemes without number, asking for sums without reason, are projected in every direction. Insignificant roads are to be extended to mammoth lengths with innumerable branches. Presidents without roads, engineers without contracts, clerks without employment, are to draw large salaries, all Radical politicians, meritorious and seedy, patriotic and hungry.

Such wicked extravagance is without parallel in the history of our legislation. And when it is considered that a large proportion of the members of the Legislature are strangers of a few years residence, and negroes, slaves three years ago, who own no property themselves and were elected by ignorant negroes and itinerant mendicants, not tax-payers, we can well feel alarmed at the future credit of the State. These men, taking advantage of their brief authority, seem determined to bankrupt North Carolina through political prejudices, and we fear from selfish and corrupt motives.

Honestly surely does not require that such debts should be paid, and we believe that neither law nor justice will demand it. Statesmanship does not require any legislation looking to their future liquidation. Time, events, and a just public judgment will vindicate and sustain the propriety and honesty of their non-payment. They should not, even if they could, be paid.

## Bribery and Corruption.

"When thieves fall out honest men receive their dues."

We have, upon several occasions, said that money had been voted and bonds issued by the Legislature of North Carolina through fraud and corruption. No longer ago than yesterday we argued against the payment of that portion of our public debt created by the present General Assembly, not only because the debt was created illegally, but also on account of the bribery used to accomplish the passage of the bills. We were not able to prove the fact of money being used for the purpose of passing certain bills, but we were as fully persuaded of its truth as if we knew it. Concurrent testimony of numerous gentlemen who had visited Raleigh for the purpose of advancing several schemes before the Legislature, convinced us that the majority of that body, or at least those who controlled that majority, could be, and were, time and again, purchased "for dollars and cents." We have been told that two hundred thousand dollars of the bonds of the State were given to certain members of the Legislature for the passage of the bill giving aid to the Chatham Railroad, and so frequently has the rumor come to us that we believe that bribery was resorted to in the passage of that bill. In fact, bribery and corruption is believed to be used to such a degree that the projectors of any and every scheme have only a struggle between honesty and their own and the interest of their particular section, to decide whether they will purchase the favor of the Legislature.

We are glad to see that this matter has been called up in the Legislature, and by a Republican and a Northern man. Mr. SWEET, the Senator from Craven, of whom we have received most favorable accounts, and whose name we have not heard connected with these "legislative short comings," has brought the most serious charges against certain members of the General Assembly. He declares most positively, as a Senator, that he stands ready to prove conclusively that the votes of members were bought for dollars and cents, and introduces a resolution of inquiry. Here the issue is presented directly, and the Senator challenges an investigation. The monthly and silly Senator from Wake grows restive under the charge and pronounces the resolution, if it refers to him, a foul slander on his character. We suppose this individual is innocent. When these legislative shysters resorted to such base measures to secure the passage of bills, they need their means to purchase men who had some present influence, or whose ability gave promise of future influence in the body. Sensible men are not apt to shoot once balls at sparrows, or set dead-falls for minks as a paying operation. In a game in which such important stakes are at issue, popinjays are estimated at their true value. And such men need not take any neglect to purchase their useless favors for any complicity to their useless honesty.

The tax-paying people of North Carolina are fully persuaded that bribery has been used to pass the illegal appropriations made by the present Legislature, and they will exercise every honorable effort to avoid the payment of these debts. In the name of justice and law, we thank Senator SWEET for his resolution, and urge him to press it in vindication of his own and his fellow's honesty and virtue, and in behalf of the integrity and welfare of North Carolina.

## The Carolina Farmer.

The December number of this Magazine has been received. The second number is fully up to the first. The selections from various agricultural sources are made with judgment. The farmer will find something from which he will derive useful and valuable information. We sincerely trust this new candidate for popular favor is receiving the support it merits. Address W. H. Bernard, Wilmington, N. C.

THE PEANUT CROP.—From a gentleman who has traveled extensively over the peanut country of this section and made careful examination and inquiries, and who is himself a considerable planter and largely interested, we gain the following account of the peanut crop from his reliable estimate:

As we have previously mentioned, on information from the same source, the yield to the acre this year is not near so good as last. A much larger number of acres have been planted, but owing to the poor yield the crop falls far short of the anticipations previously entertained. If propitious seasons had been experienced, there is no doubt but that fully 150,000 bushels would have been shipped from this port; but as it is, scarcely more than a two-thirds crop will be realized. It will be safe to say that shipments this season will reach 100,000 bushels, and may probably amount to 110,000 bushels. Of this there is some doubt, but the crop may reach these latter figures, which we consider somewhat probable. Last year the shipments in round numbers amounted to some 85,000 bushels, so there is more made this year than last, notwithstanding the unpropitious season. The quality of the peanuts has not suffered like the yield. On the contrary, taken throughout and as a general thing, they are of a superior quality and unusually fine.

## J. W. Purdie, Esq.

We were glad to see Mr. J. W. PURDIE, the Senator from Bladen and Columbus, in our sanctum on Monday. Mr. PURDIE is an industrious, intelligent and honest representative, and is justly popular in his District. In the midst of the extravagances, corruptions and temptations of the Legislature, he attends faithfully to the interests of his constituents, and does all he can to protect the honor and welfare of his State. Such men are indeed invaluable in this crisis.

## The Forty-First Congress.

Although the approaching session of the Forty-first Congress will last but three months, there will, it is stated, be no crowding of legislation. The Forty-first Congress assembled on the 4th of March next, as will be seen from the following, which is the first session of an act passed at the second session of the Thirty-ninth Congress, and approved January 22, 1867. It is entitled "An act providing for the meeting of Congress," and reads as follows:

Be it enacted, That in addition to the present regular time of Congress, to-wit: the first session of the Forty-first Congress of the United States and of each successive Congress thereafter, shall be on the 4th day of March, the day on which the term begins (for which the Congress is elected, except that when the 4th of March occurs on Sunday the meeting shall take place at the same hour on the next succeeding day.)

## LEGISLATURE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

## SENATE.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27, 1898.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Winstead: A bill to amend the Charter of the Oxford branch of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad Company. Ordered to be printed and referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

A message was received from the House transmitting a bill to authorize the Commissioners of certain counties to issue bonds in sums not less than \$100, not to exceed \$7,000, and the interest per annum not to exceed 8 per cent. Referred to the committee on Finance.

## CALENDAR.

The following bills passed their 3rd reading:

Bill to amend Section 19, Chapter 118, of the Revised Code.

Bill to extend the time within which certain widows may dissent from a deceased husband's will.

On motion, the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, 11 o'clock.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, NOV. 19, 1898.

## RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Malone offered the following resolution, which lies over:

Whereas, It appears from the report of the Treasurer of the State, that the State of North Carolina is indebted to the United States for the various Railroads and Navigation Companies of the State, to the amount of \$13,241,000; and it appears that of this sum \$4,700,500 are due in bonds of such corporations drawing interest, which should be regularly paid to the Public Treasury; and whereas, It also appears that these bonds there is now due the sum of \$472,500 as interest which should be paid to the State; and it being recommended by his Excellency that some mode be provided to insure the payment of both the accrued and accruing interest due from these corporations; Therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to report what legislation is necessary to enable the State to obtain the prompt payment of all the interest upon bonds due from the various corporations to the State; and, if necessary, they are instructed to report a bill for this purpose, and for the purpose of directing the cost applicable to the dividends shall now be paid to the State by the State in these Companies and Corporations.

By Mr. Vest: A resolution to give the poor man the same chance to distil brandy and whiskey as the rich man. Lies over.

## BILLS.

By Mr. Bowman: A bill to repeal section 558, chapter 1, Code of Civil Procedure. Referred.

By Mr. Malone: A bill in regard to obtaining license to practice law.

[This bill provides that all applicants, who have had licenses from the Supreme Court to practice law in the county Courts, as they heretofore existed, shall now be allowed to practice law in all the Courts of the State.]

The rules were suspended, on motion of Mr. Malone, and the bill passed its several readings and was ordered to be engrossed.

A communication was received from the Code Commission, submitting a bill to impose a tax on succession to real and personal estate, and to provide for its collection.

On motion of Mr. Estes, the bill was ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Finance.

## CALENDAR.

Mr. Sinclair's resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to examine the ordinances of the late Convention to ascertain whether or not any of them require legislative action was next reached, when

Mr. Sinclair moved to amend so as to include the resolutions, also, of that body. He, for example, read some ordinances and resolutions, to which the attention of the General Assembly had been called.

The amendment was adopted, and the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

By consent J. S. Leary, colored, offered a resolution instructing the representatives of this State in the next Congress to endeavor to get the disabilities removed from the citizens of the State who are banned by the 14th article. Lies over.

By Mr. Hagland: A bill for the relief of debtors.

The bill being read Mr. R. moved its reference to a special committee of three, with instructions to report by the second Monday in December next.

The motion being adopted the reference was ordered.

Mr. French gave notice that he would introduce a bill requiring foreign Insurance Companies to deposit a certain per centage upon the amount of their risks with the Public Treasurer.

By Mr. Argo: A resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to investigate the Code of Civil Procedure. Adopted.

By Mr. Whitley: A resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to report as soon as possible, upon the bill entitled "An act for the benefit of Securities and Endorsers," which was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Moore the House then adjourned.

## SENATE.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28, 1898.

Mr. Barrow, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred a bill to allow Administrators and Executors to sell for cash, reported a substitute. After some discussion, on motion of Mr. Davis, it was recommitted to the committee.

## BILLS.

By Mr. Love: A bill to amend an act in relation to Salaries and Fees. Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

On motion of Mr. Respass, a committee of three was appointed to read last session's Special Committee of the House on Salaries and Fees. The President designated Messrs. Respass, Purdie and Davis as the Committee.

## CALENDAR.

Bill to incorporate the North Carolina Mutual Home Insurance Company came up. Postponed until Tuesday next, at 12 o'clock.

Adjourned until Monday, 11 o'clock.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28, 1898.

In accordance with Mr. Hagland's motion yesterday, raising a Special Committee to consider his bill for the relief of debtors, the Chair announced Messrs. Hagland, Pou and Welch.

A message was received from the Governor in relation to the act passed last session, appropriating \$10,000 for the Executive Mansion. The message expresses a desire not to use the appropriation and to continue in his present residence. Referred to the Committee on Public Buildings.

Mr. Pou said he was glad to hear such a message. He had intended to introduce a bill looking to the discontinuance of such a thing as an Executive Mansion after the expiration of the present administration. Now that this message had been received, he gave notice that he would shortly introduce such a bill.

## REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. Laffin, from the committee on Internal Improvements, reported upon the bill to amend the charter of the Green Swamp Company, recommending its passage.

The same, from the same committee, submitted a report recommending the passage of the bill to amend the charter of the Cheraw and Coalfields R. Co.

Mr. Estes, from the Finance committee, submitted a report unfavorable to the passage of the bill to amend the charter of Private Bills introduced in the Legislature.

A communication was received from the Public Treasurer, submitting a bill to raise revenue. Referred to the committee on Finance.

## RESOLUTIONS.

By Mr. Malone: A resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to enquire whether any legislation is necessary to make the act concerning registration and the act supplementary thereto, ratified on the 24th of August last, applicable to all special elections held under the proclamation of the Governor or otherwise. Adopted.

## BILLS.

By J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored: A bill renewing the charter of the city of Raleigh.

Referred to a special committee of three, by Mr. Estes: A bill to divide the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad into three branches to their main road. Ordered to be printed and referred to the Finance committee.

By Mr. White: A bill to amend section 137, chapter 8, Code of Civil Procedure. Referred.

In accordance with Mr. Sinclair's resolution of yesterday, raising a special committee to examine the resolutions and ordinances of the late Convention, the Chair announced the following gentlemen to compose said committee, viz: Messrs. Sinclair, Vest and Argo.

By Mr. Shilley: A bill to amend section 137, chapter 8, Code of Civil Procedure. Referred.

By leave J. H. Harris, of Wake, colored, presented a petition from the laborers on the Western Extension Railroad. Referred.

A message was received from the Senate in accordance with the following, and asking the concurrence of the House, viz:

A bill to provide for the collection of taxes for 1898 in Carteret county.

A resolution authorizing the Superintendent of the Lussane Asylum to insure the buildings of that institution in some fire insurance company.

A bill to extend the time within which widows may dissent from the wills of their late husbands.

The bills were placed upon the Calendar.

On motion of Mr. French, the Special Order (the resolution making a change in offices in the Capitol) was postponed until Tuesday next.

## CALENDAR.

The bill to amend the charter of the Green Swamp Company was taken up and next 12 o'clock.

Mr. Sinclair gave notice that he would introduce a resolution abolishing the office of Assistant Clerk in this House.

The bill to impose a tax on private bills reported unfavorably upon by the Finance committee was next taken up, when

On motion of Mr. Durham, it was laid on the table.

The bill to amend the charter of the Cheraw and Coalfields Railroad Company was taken up.

Mr. Barnett offered an amendment to strike out in section 2 all after the word "that," down to the word "provided."

The amendment was adopted, and the bill was then read the third time, and the same as the roads of this State.]

Mr. Laffin, the introducer of the bill, accepted the amendment.

Messrs. Ingram, Downing, French and Sinclair favored this measure.

Mr. Z. Hayes (colored) moved to postpone and make the special order for Wednesday next, 12 o'clock.

Mr. Justice, of Rutherford, opposed the

motion to postpone, and concurred in the operation of Mr. Barnett's amendment.

Mr. Pou said as he had understood the Road would be built, whether this measure was passed or not, he withdrew his opposition to it.

After some further debate, the question upon Mr. Estes' amendment was put, (Mr. Barnett's having been accepted by the introducer,) when,

Mr. Laffin accepted that also.

V. T. Hayes, (colored,) insisted upon his motion to postpone, which was put and lost.

The bill as amended, passed its second reading.

By consent, Mr. Laffin offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Corporations to report a bill to provide for the proper registration of voters in the various chartered cities and towns, and to set apart a day in each year, on which to hold an election for municipal officers. Referred.

House bill No. 28, a bill to amend an act entitled "an act in relation to punishment (introduced by Mr. Shilley)" was taken up. Passed its second reading.

## SENATE.

MONDAY, NOV. 30, 1898.

## BILLS.

By Mr. Robbins: A bill providing for an official celebration of the centennial of the late election in the several Congressional Districts of the State. Referred to the committee on Privileges and Elections.

By Mr. Rich: A bill authorizing the sale of the State's interest in Railroad, Navigation and Turnpike Companies. Referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

By Mr. Sweet: A bill to consolidate the Atlantic and North Carolina and the North Carolina Railroad Companies, to be known as the North Carolina Central Railroad Company. Ordered to be printed and referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Davis: Two bills amendatory to an act to incorporate the Western North Carolina Railroad Company. Ordered to be printed, and referred to the committee on Internal Improvements.

By Mr. Davis: A resolution proposing a recess from Saturday, the 19th of December, to Monday, the 4th of Jan. 69. After some discussion, on motion of A. H. Galloway, colored, it was voted down by a vote of 21 yeas to 19 nays.

By Mr. Sweet: A resolution proposing to raise a Joint committee to investigate certain alleged charges in reference to the appropriation of last session to the Chatham Railroad.

Mr. Robbins offered the following as a substitute for Mr. Sweet's resolution which was accepted:

Whereas, Rumors are becoming current in various quarters, and are finding their way into the public prints, that members of this General Assembly, and others in the line of trust in the State government, have been guilty of corrupt practices, such as buying black-mail, accepting bribes and using and receiving money as a consideration for votes or influence in favor of certain measures involving large appropriations of money by this General Assembly, particularly the appropriation of the Chatham railroad, at the late session, and

Whereas, It is a common saying in the mouths of men, that if it is desired to have anything passed through this General Assembly in which money is involved, money must be paid for it; and

Whereas, Our honor, as well as the good name of North Carolina, is being impeached, are concerned in this matter;

Therefore the General Assembly of North Carolina do resolve: That a Joint committee of investigation, composed of three members of the Senate and five members of the House of Representatives, to be designated by the respective presiding officers of the two Houses, be at once constituted, whose duty it shall be to institute forthwith a searching inquiry in reference to the truth of the aforesaid rumors and charges; and, particularly those touching the corruption alleged to be connected with the passage of the appropriation to the Chatham Railroad at the late session; and

That the said committee shall have power, and it shall be their duty to send for persons and papers, to administer oaths, either through their chairman or acting chairman, to examine witnesses, and to make report at the earliest possible day to this General Assembly, of the guilty parties, if any, be found by such committee, and the evidence in writing, by which the facts are sustained.

3rd. That if any person brought before committee shall refuse to testify concerning any matter relevant to this investigation, he shall be forthwith brought before the bar of one of the two Houses, that he may be committed for contempt, and any person shall, in the course of his examination as a witness by said committee, take any false oath or testify falsely in any particular respecting the matters which may be relevant to this investigation, such person shall be liable to indictment as a person who has committed perjury, and shall suffer all the pains and penalties of wilful and corrupt perjury.

4th. That said inquiry and investigation shall extend not only to members of this General Assembly, but to every other officer of the Government, or any other individual whatsoever, who may be alleged to have been connected with the giving and receiving of bribes in money or other valuable consideration, for the purpose of securing votes or influence in favor of any measure of this General Assembly, involving appropriations of money or bonds, or loaning the credit of the State to any person or corporation, or any individual, especially to the Chatham Railroad Company, at the last session of this General Assembly.

5th. That each and every member of said investigation committee shall, before entering upon the duties thereof, be required to take an oath before the presiding officer of the House of which he is a member, to consider the aforesaid inquiry faithfully, and without fear, favor or affection, towards any person whatever, to the end that the truth of this matter may be well ascertained, the guilty, if any, punished, and the good name of the innocent be vindicated.

6. That a majority of said committee shall be invested with all the powers herein conferred on the whole, and the action of a majority shall be, in all respects, as valid and binding as that of the entire committee.

Mr. Jones, of Wake, said that it was well known that he had taken an active part in securing the appropriation to the Chatham Railroad, and he thought he knew as much about the matter as any member on the floor, and he thought the charges in the resolutions were of a grave character.

They say that Senators or members have been bribed to secure their votes. If the resolution was intended for him it was a foul slander on his character.

Mr. Robbins said the Senator from Wake misinterpreted the resolutions. They were intended to defend and not to attack him. The resolutions make no charges. They are made outside, on the streets, and through the public prints. The resolutions were friendly to every member of the General Assembly. If he knew of any dishonest act, or the taking of a bribe by any member, he would not hesitate to say so, it compared not with the charges in the resolutions, which were of a grave character. They say that Senators or members have been bribed to secure their votes. If the resolution was intended for him it was a foul slander on his character.

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